

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(1 omi 10-000a). Typo an omines.			
1. Name of Property			
	of Tallahassee		
other names/site number N/A			
2. Location	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		·
street & number 1513 Cristo	obal Drive	N/A I	ot for publication
city, town Tallahassee		N/A V	
state Florida code	FL county Leon	code 073	zip code 32312
1201100	TD OOM, DOON	0000 0.0	
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resource	s within Property
X private	X building(s)		oncontributing
Dublic-local	district	1	0 buildings
_			
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
			0_ Total
Name of related multiple property lis	sting:		ng resources previously
N/A		listed in the National	Register <u>N/A</u>
- C-4-/C-41 A O-4/6		<u> </u>	
4. State/Federal Agency Certifi	ication		
Signature of certifying difficial	eets does not meet the National F		Date /2/87
In my opinion, the propertym	eets does not meet the National F	Register criteria. See conti	nuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other offi	cial		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
5. National Park Service Certifi	ication		<u></u>
I, hereby, certify that this property is			
entered in the National Register.			
See continuation sheet.			·
determined eligible for the Nation			
Register. See continuation shee	rt		***
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.			.
removed from the National Regis			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Signature	of the Keeper	Date of Action

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions Social/Clubhouse	
tions)	
-	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Woman's Club of Tallahassee is part of a well defined residential subdivision located at the intersection of Thomasville and Meridian Roads. The subdivision covers a triangular piece of property on 37 acres of land and contains 138 lots. The clubhouse is a one story Mediterranean Revival structure, built of concrete block and finished with textured stucco. The roof is a low hip covered in pantile tiles. The Spanish style of the clubhouse was to be the first example of Mediterranean Revival architecture proposed for Los Robles, the Oaks, subdivision built in 1927. Surrounded on three sides by several large old live oak trees hung with Spanish moss which creates a protective canopy over the clubhouse and its surroundings, the Woman's Club stands just inside the Mediterranean portal, at the junction point of Cristobal and Fernando Drives.

The main entrance is located on the south side of the building. It features a three bay loggia asymmetrically placed on the building facing the Mediterranean Revival entrance portal to the subdivision. Round-headed fenestration lends a strong Mediterranean accent to an otherwise unadorned exterior. Two portals, flanking the three bay loggia, are casement windows with semicircular tympanum above and a blind balustrade below. A sixth bay located on the facade of the auditorium portion of the building duplicates the two end windows of the porch. The main entry is through the porch loggia, which has glazed multipaned doors, a double door in the center of two single doors. Heavily carved wooden brackets under the eaves lend balance to the red clay pantile roof tiles. Azaleas and dogwood trees on the south side of the entry drive create a park-like setting.

The only decorative feature on the west facade of the building is the group of three large, beautifully proportioned, arched double-hung windows with semicircular windows in the tympanum. The windows are centered on the auditorium block between the south porch and the northern stage wing. Two smaller rectangular double-hung windows flank the triple arched fenestration. All windows have stone slab sills. A single door is located at the northwest corner of the building.

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Continuation sheet

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On the east facade there are two double doors with semicircular tympanums which open onto the large curved brick patio area off the dining lounge. A large end chimney dominates the western wall between the doors and is finished in decorative rough cast stucco. A plain plaster shield placed over each of the two doors is the only other adornment to the eastern wall.

The north facade is part of a 1953 addition to the clubhouse which added 18 feet in depth and 58 feet in width to the building. The design of the addition is sympathetic with the original plan. The fenestration of the rear facade includes one single door with a small wooden porch roof, and two small rectangular windows. The air conditioning unit and a corrugated metal storage unit are located on the rear wall facing the parking area.

The interior space is divided into functional areas for meetings and entertainment. The main room is an auditorium which measures approximately 68 feet by 40 feet and has a ceiling height of 16 feet. The original oak floor remains in excellent condition. A lounge area on the east side of the auditorium measures approximately 30 feet by 38 feet. The fireplace dominates the room and is its most distinctive element. The large chimney piece is built of carved and painted wood and brick with a decorative crown molding, carved pilasters and a blind panel. The hearth is laid with six-inch unfired Mexican tiles in a mellow burnt umber color. The area is furnished with wall to wall carpet, large overstuffed sofas, chairs, side tables and lamps. The intimate area is used for meetings and small luncheons and dinners. The stage area runs the full width of the north wall. Stairs at each side of the stage lead to small triangular shaped dressing areas. A three-foot corridor runs behind the curtained stage connecting the two dressing areas. The kitchen and pantry are large, functional areas providing much storage for utility articles. The work area of the kitchen contains large sinks, a chopping block, oversized refrigerator, several work tables and lots of storage cabinets. Two range top stoves provide ample cooking facilities. A pantry provides storage room for dishes, a desk and work area for day-to-day secretarial duties and storage area for records.

Alterations and Present Appearance:

The 1953 addition to the rear of the clubhouse added an area of 1044 square feet. A new stage area and several square feet were added to the auditorium and the kitchen was greatly expanded. The addition was built by Culpepper Construction Incorporated and designed by A.P. Woodward, architect. The engineer was R.M. Marshall. The construction is frame with brick veneer and stucco overlay to match the building's original exterior. The roof area over the kitchen is built-up gravel, and the area over the stage is a low-pitch hip in pantile tiles. All original blueprints for both the original building and the addition are on the premises of the Woman's Club.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop	erty in relation to other properties: statewide X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA BXC	□D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture Social history	Period of Significance 1927-1937	Significant DatesN/A
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder E.D. Fitchner	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Los Robles was Tallahassee's venture into Florida's twenties-era Mediterranean Revival subdivisions. As the only building in the subdivision actually built in that style, the Woman's Club stands as a reminder that Tallahassee belonged to the "other Florida." North Floridians preferred more traditional architecture in the twenties. The structure meets Criteria A and C on the local level because of its association with a women's organization that provided civic leadership in the areas of charitable and humanitarian concerns and its twenties architecture designed by the noted Florida architect, E.D. Fitchner.

Soon after its opening in 1927, the Woman's Club became the unofficial civic and entertainment center of Tallahassee. Organized in 1903 by the wives and daughters of prominent educators, business and professional men, the club served as a focal point for providing social services to the community in an era before government became greatly involved in such activities. Governor Sidney J. Catts pushed some social welfare programs, such as compulsory school attendance and assistance to mothers with dependent children, through the state legislature during his term (1917-1921), but city expenditures for social services were quite small until the Great Depression.

Most of the women in the club were college educated, but in that period before women's suffrage and equal rights, few middle class women worked outside the home. The training and energy of these women were funneled into important and progressive innovations in charitable and humanitarian programs that were designed to make the capital city a better place to live.

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Most of the activities of the Woman's Club centered about improving health care and providing better education for the youth of Tallahsssee. It was mainly through the efforts of the members of the club that in 1910 a bond issue was floated enabling the building of the first Leon High School. During the same period, the members raised funds and for two years maintained the first kindergarten in the area. They also funded the first library in county schools. During the 1920s members backed the Girl Scout movement and the 4-H Club in the city. Many meetings at the clubhouse during this period were based entirely on efforts to help Tallahassee's less fortunate. During the Depression years, the club raised funds, purchased and distributed shoes for the shoeless of the city, and collected items for layettes for newborn babies. A health nurse was hired by the members and money was given to establish a health unit in Leon County for those who could not otherwise afford health care. Funds for free milk for under-nourished children were established by the members. Free seeds for fruit and vegetables were supplied to provide basic food staples for the poor.

During World War II the clubhouse was turned over to the American Red Cross. Members volunteered their time and energies to sew surgical garments and wrap bandages. Many members served on committees that wrote letters to soldiers abroad. Some members also staffed the U.S.O. clubs in the area. The Woman's Club was a major supporter of the drive to purchase War Bonds.

Throughout the club's history, members have maintained an active program of beautification for the city. Tallahassee was one of the first municipal governments in the country to pass a tree protection ordinance. Club members drummed up public support for the measure. They planted and maintained memorial trees, identified "Patriarch Oaks" that were alive at Tallahassee's founding, and decorated public roadways with shrubs and flowers.

During the 1950s through the 1980s the clubhouse continued to be the site of many charitable functions. The members kept up their civic duties and provided scholarship funds for university students. Yearly fund raisers were held in the clubhouse for such charitable causes as the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center, the Ronald McDonald House in Gainesville and the Multiple Sclerosis Campaign. Since the twenties, the clubhouse has been the most popular place in Tallahassee for wedding receptions. Three generations of Tallahassee brides have celebrated their marriages in the structure.

The developers, Leon F. Lonnbladh and Albert E. Thornton, planned a Mediterranean Revival style subdivision in Tallahassee to rival the Mediterranean Revival architecture used in the Coral Gables boom time developments. Calling their subdivision Los Robles, the men purchased 37 acres of farmland outside the city limits adjacent to Thomasville Road. Los Robles was the first completely planned subdivision in Tallahassee. The city's population was only about 3,000 in 1926; few of the streets were even paved. The Los Robles developers offered paved streets, concrete sidewalks, landscaping, street lights, and modern gas, water and sewer systems. All of these amenities were just a few minutes from the Capitol and on a street car line.

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The Woman's Club was the largest structure built in Los Robles, and besides the Mediterranean Revival entry portal, was the only Mediterranean Revival structure built. The remainder of the subdivision was finished in the more traditional English Cottage, Tudor Revival and American Colonial architecture. Tallahassee in the 1920s was steeped in the traditions of the old south and was not ready for Mediterranean Revival architecture. Even the design of the clubhouse is not a pure example of Mediterranean Revival architecture. While studying the original plans the writer discovered that the building was originally designed by the architect for a site nearer the center of the city on Calhoun Street. The original plans called for the same functional interior we see today; however, the exterior was a more traditional and classically balanced brick facade with arched transom windows. When the Woman's Club received the gift of three lots to build its first clubhouse, the developers included the proviso that the building be built according to a thematic plan for Los Robles, namely Mediterranean Revival. The building, the largest and most prominently sited structure in the subdivision, was planned to set the stylistic example for the entire subdivision. The architect used his original plan and with the addition of plaster on the exterior walls, a tiled roof, heavy carved wooden brackets under the eaves, a large prominent end chimney, black wrought iron light fixtures, and turned wooden balusters in the under casement windows, produced the effect the developers wanted to see on the site.

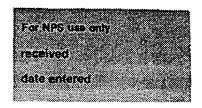
The Woman's Club was designed by E.D. Fitchner. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1887 and graduated from college, but to his family's knowledge, did not receive formal architectural training. Fitchner instead took the state architectural examination after serving an apprenticeship and receiving much practical experience. He was licensed to practice architecture in the same way other notable architects of the time were licensed, namely Addison Mizener, Stanford White and Frank Lloyd Wright. Fitchner worked in several traditional and revival styles. He designed the blended Mediterranean Revival style of the Floridan Hotel in Tallahassee, a National Register listing which was demolished in 1985. Fitchner also designed the Jacobean Revival Ruge Hall on the Florida State University campus in 1931 and the Tudor Revival and English Cottage style homes built in Los Robles in the mid-1930s. Fitchner also designed the Lutheran Bible School in Jacksonville, the Bay County High School and Bay City Jail, the Leon County Armory and the Elks Lodge, Tallahassee. He supervised the remodelling of the State Capitol Building and the Leon County Courthouse in Tallahassee during the 1930s. At the time of his death in 1941, Fitchner was the Supervising Architect for the State Hotel Commission of Florida.

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	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Primary location of additional data: X State historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify repository:
Acreage of propertyless than one acre	
UTM References A 1 7 7 6 1 6 1 0 3 3 7 2 8 0 0 Zone Easting Northing C 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	B J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J J
•	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 20, Block B, IN, W_2^1 of N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30 IN,	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
	hat has historically been associated
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Donna Climenhage & Lea Wolfe, Ph.D.,	Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 So. Bro	
city or townTallahassee	state Florida zip code 32399-0250

9. Major Bibliographical References

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Chapman, Mrs. J.V. Personal interview, October 3, 1986.

Conklin, Diane. "Finery & Fans Featured in Good Works Planning," <u>Tallahassee</u> Democrat, 9 September, 1973, p. 3E.

Deed Book 14, p. 314, November 9, 1926, Leon County Courthouse, Los Robles, Inc., to Woman's Club of Tallahassee, Lots 1 and 2 and part Lot 20, Block B, Los Robles Subdivision.

Deed Book 107, p. 500, March 1, 1949, Leon County Courthouse, Angie C. Deeb and S.P. Deeb to Woman's Club of Tallahassee, Lots 3 and 4 and N. 70 feet of Lot 20, Block B, Los Robles Subdivision.

Daffin, Ernest. Telephone interview, November 5, 1986.

Florida Master Site File. Tallahassee Woman's Club 830, surveyed 8008...

"Floridan First Built in Brain of E.D. Fitchner," <u>Tallahassee Democrat</u>, 2 May, 1927, p. 1.

Hinson, Mark. "Floridan is Gone but Architect's Mark Remains," <u>Tallahassee</u>

<u>Democrat</u>, 12 May 1985.

"Last Rites Held for E.D. Fitchner; Elks Have Service," Obituary, <u>Tallahassee</u>
Democrat, August 1941.

Los Robles. n.p., n.d. (c. 1926).

Lykes, Susan. "The Depression, What was it Really Like?" <u>Tallahassee Democrat</u>, 23 February, 1975.

"New Woman's Club Building in Los Robles Dedicated," Editorial, <u>Tallahassee</u> Democrat, 22 April, 1927, p.2.

Pitts, James E. <u>Tallahassee Area Statistical Abstract</u>. Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce, 1971, p. 11.

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Sellers, Chloe. Telephone interview, November 7, 1986.

Skretting, Ruth E. History of the Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1903-1984.

Tallahassee, Florida, 1984.

Williams, D.E. Telephone interview, November 7, 1986.



United States Department of the Interior

P.O. BOX 37127 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

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The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the Loriowing properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning November 15, 1987 and ending November 21, 1987. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

AMERICAN SOMOA, Western Division, A'a Village Site (AS34-33) (11/19/87)
AMERICAN SOMOA, Western Division, Tataga-Matau Fortified Quarry Complex (AS-34-10) (11/19/87)

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, First Congregational Church, 980 Clarkson St. (11/16/87)

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, Southington, Frost, Levi B., House, 1089 Marion Ave. (11/20/87)

FLORIDA, Leon County, Tallahassee, Woman's Club of Tallahassee, 1513 Cristobal Dr. (11/20/87)

ILLINOIS, <u>Dupage County</u>, Lombard, <u>Dupage Theatre and Dupage Shoppes</u>, 101-109 S. Main St. (11/20/87)

LLINOIS, LaSalle County, Utica, Spring Valley House-Sulphur Springs Hotel, Dee Bennett Rd. (11/20/87)

ILLINOIS, Winnebago County, Rockford, Haight Village Historic District, Roughly bounded by Walnut & Kishwaukee Sts., Chicago Northwestern RR tracks, & Madison St. (11/20/87)

ILLINOIS, Woodford County, Benson, Benson Water Tower, Clayton St. between Front & Pleasant Sts. (11/20/87)

IOWA, Henry County, Mount Pleasant, Harlan House Hotel, 122 N. Jefferson St. (11/16/87)

IOWA, Lucas County, Chariton, Stephens, A. J., House, 123 Seventeenth St. (11/16/87)

IOWA, Washington County, Washington, Stewart, Frank, House, 603 W. Washington St. (11/16/87)

LOUISIANA, Rapides Parish, Alexandria, Masonic Home for Children, 5800 Masonic Dr. (11/20/87)

LOUISIANA, Rapides Parish, Meeker, Meeker Sugar Refinery, US 71 (11/16/87)

LOUISIANA, Vermilion Parish, Perry, Perry House, Orange Dr. (11/16/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, First Methodist Episcopal Church (Port Hope MPS), 4451 Second St. (11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Herman House (Port Hope MPS), 4405 Main St. (11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Leuty, Isaac, House (Port Hope MPS), 7955 School St. (11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Masonic Temple (Port Hope MPS), 4425 Main St. (11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Schlichting Building (Port Hope MPS), 4443 Main St. (11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, St. John's Lutheran Church (Port Hope MPS), 4527 Second St.

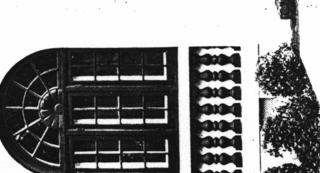
(11/20/87)

MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Stafford, Frederick H. and Elizabeth, House (Port Hope MPS), 4489 Main St. (11/20/87)

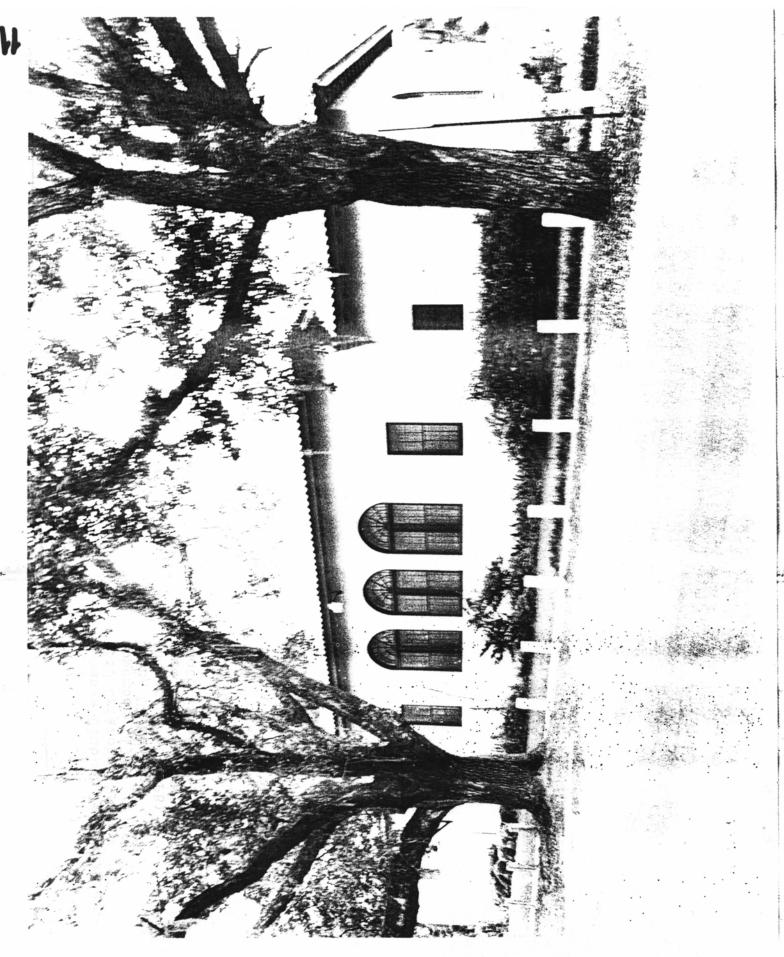
MICHIGAN, Huron County, Port Hope, Stafford, W. R., Flour Mill and Elevator (Port Hope MPS), 4310 Juron St. (11/20/87)



Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative at HTPB) view Main facade(south) photo #1 of 9

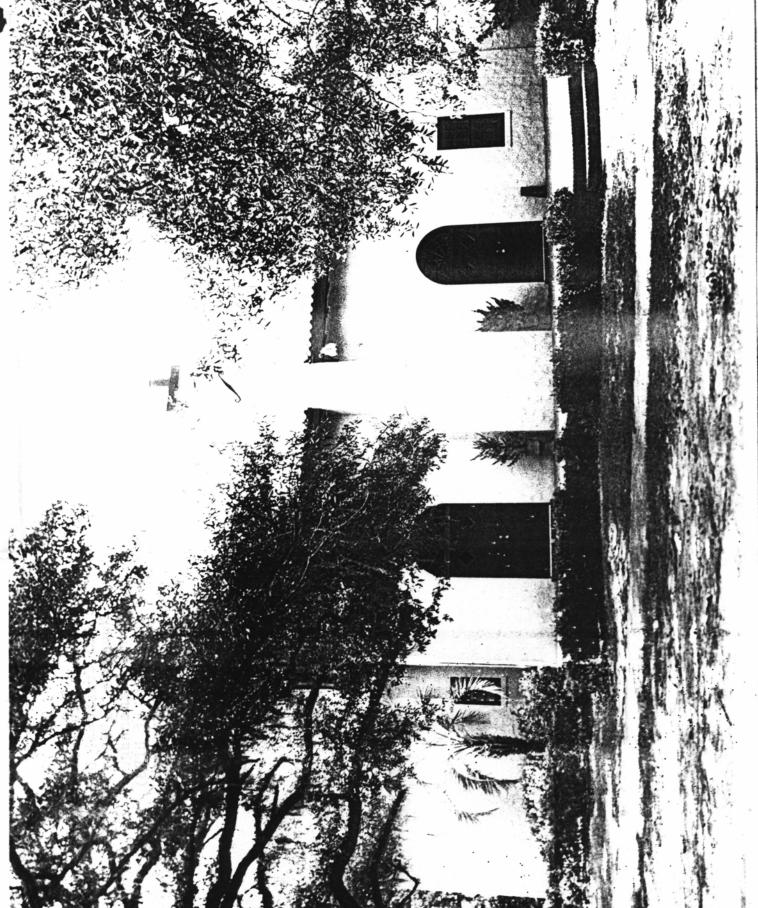


Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative at HTPB) view south fenestration photo #2 of 9



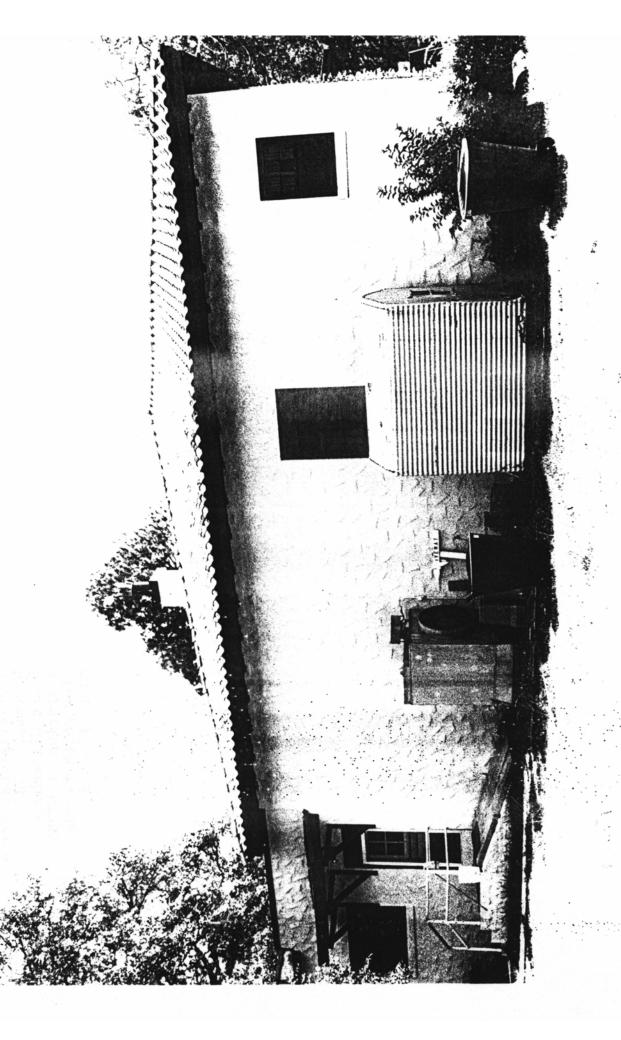
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Glimenhage (negative at HTPB) view west facade photo # of 9



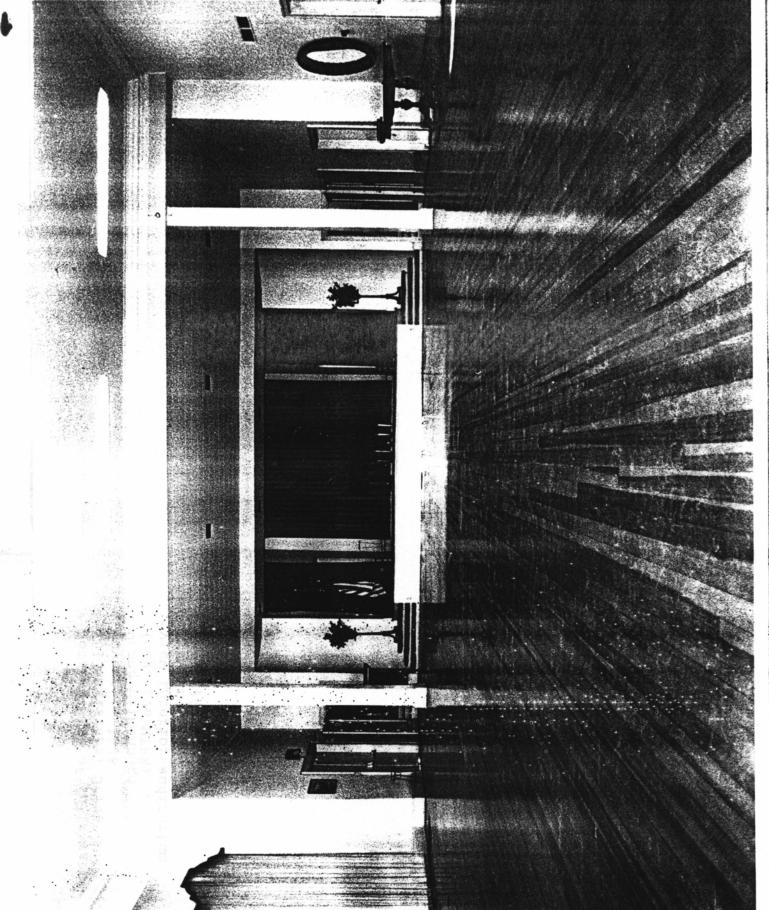
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative at HTPB) view east facade photo #4 of 9



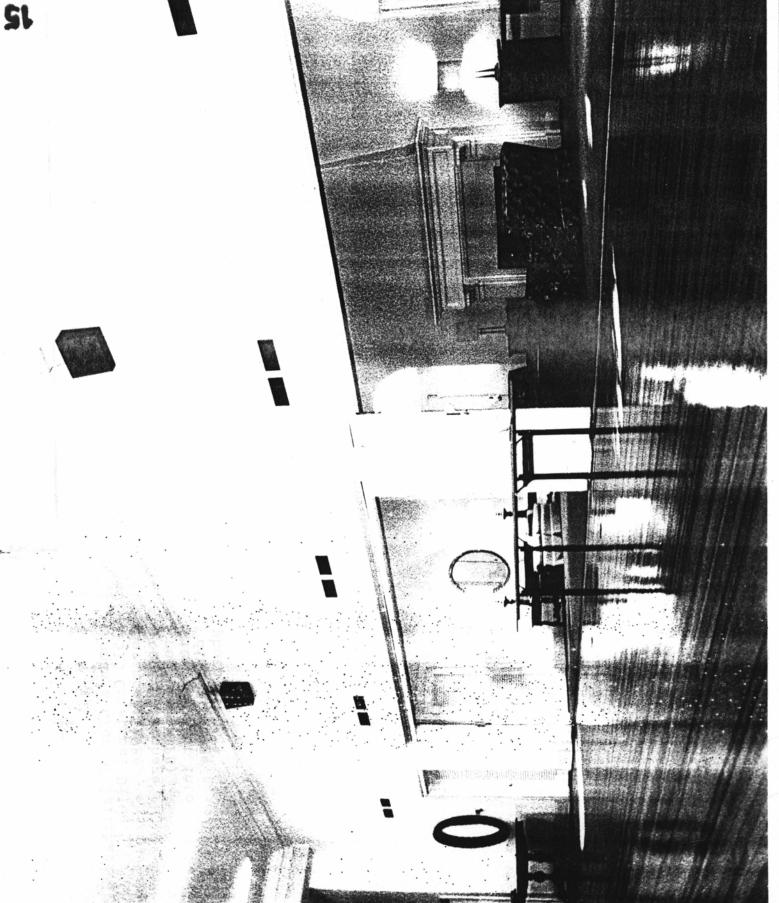
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative at HTPB) view north facade photo #5 of 9



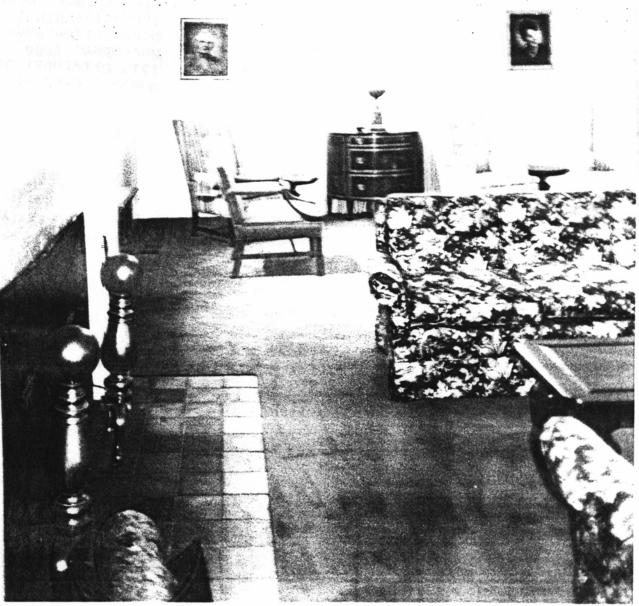
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative HTPB) view interior auditorium toward stage photo #6 of 9



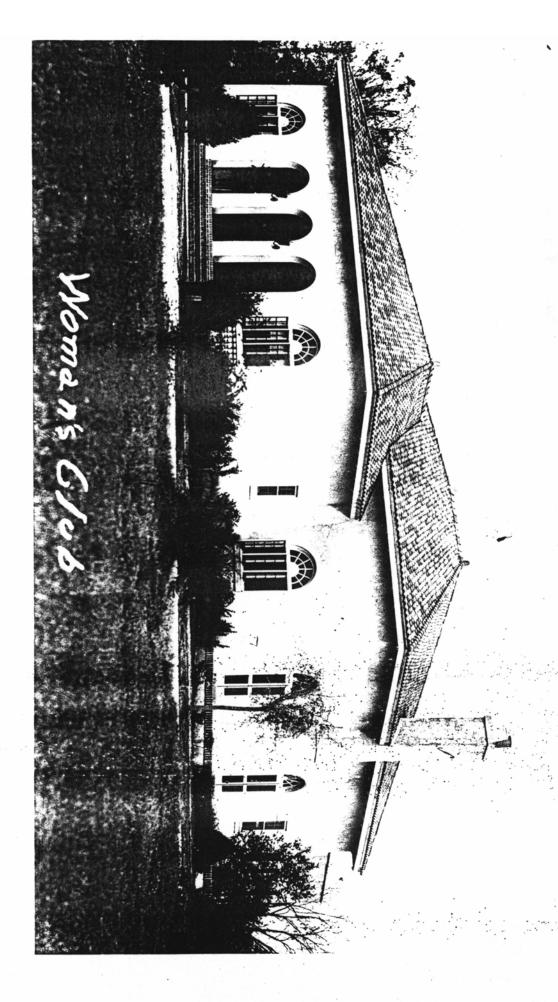
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative HTPB) view interior into dining Tounge Photo #7 of 9

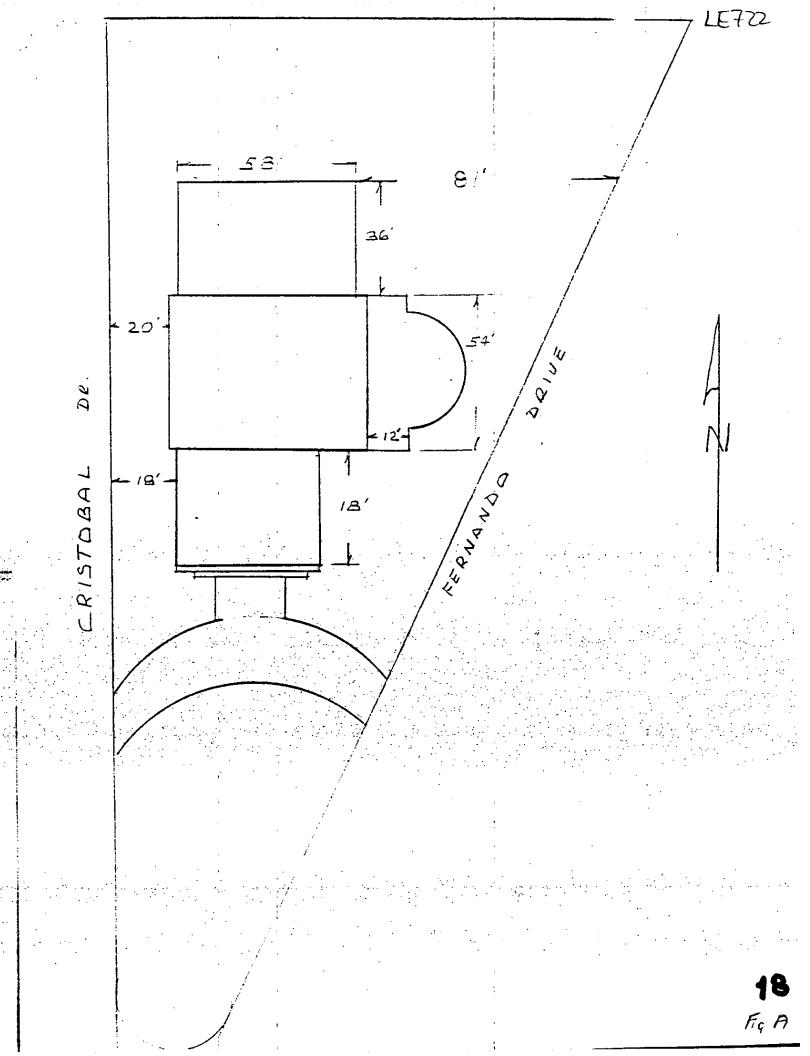


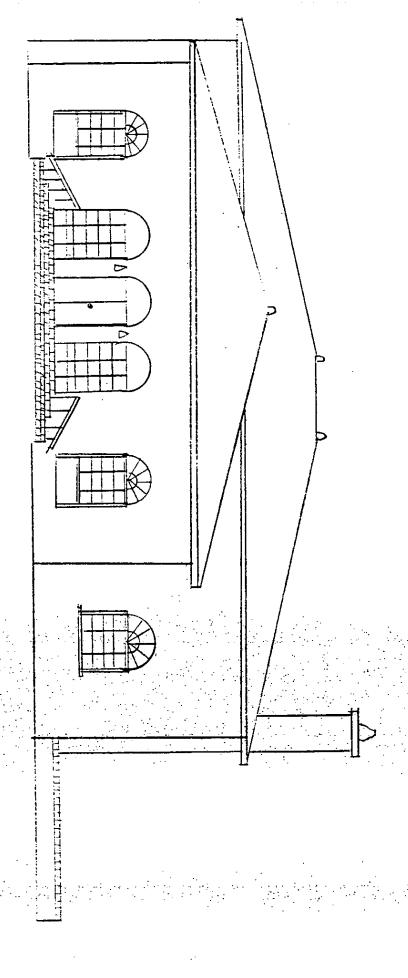
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Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive November, 1986 Donna Climenhage (negative HTPB) view chimney piece and hearth detail photo #8 of 9



Woman's Club of Tallahassee 1513 Cristobal Drive 1929 photo historic (negative Florida Archives) view south-east facade photo #9 of 9

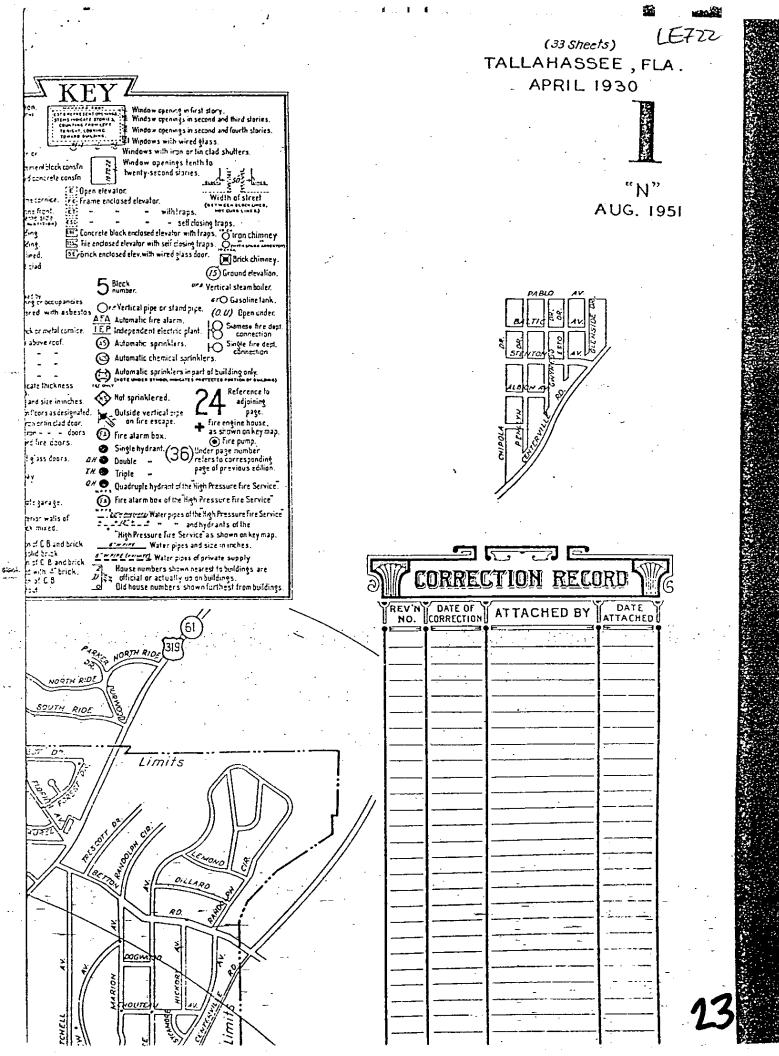


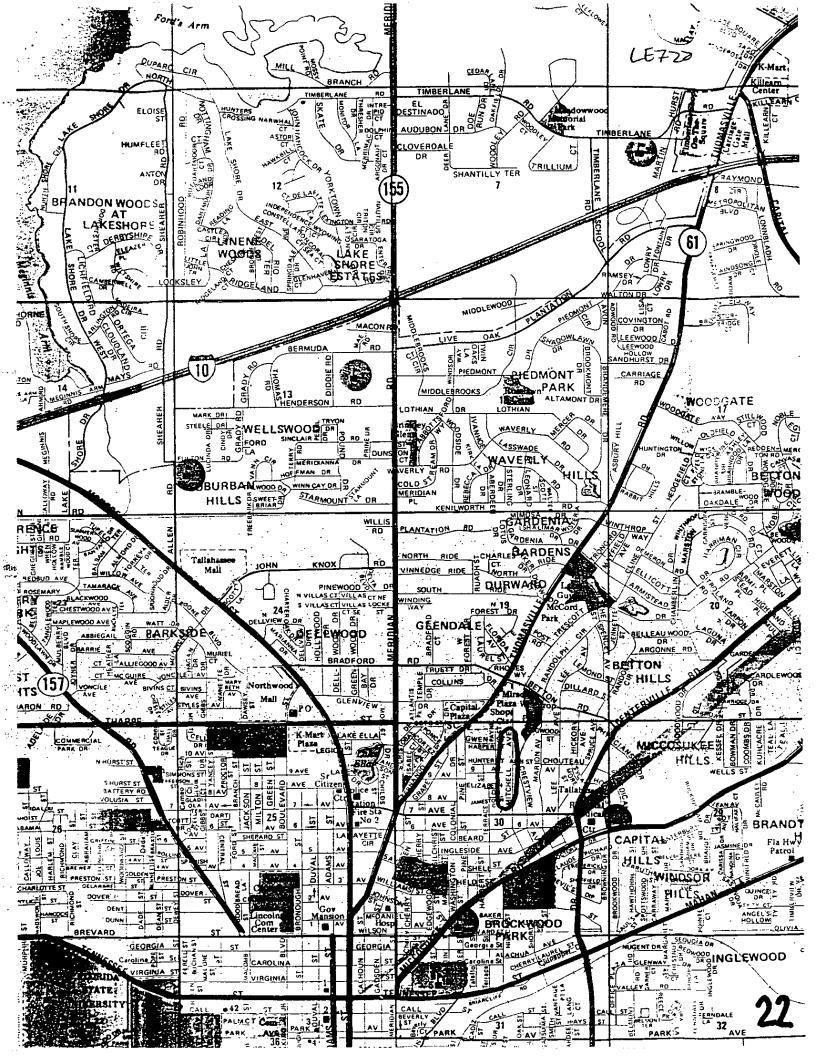


RESTRICTED

Site#/	Manuscript# <u>Le 722</u> contained one or more of the following items:
	Blueprints/building plans/schematic drawings Floor Plans Drawings/diagrams depicting internal layout and/or structural elements Other, explain
	te File has determined that the above marked material may be Restricted. eted material is defined by one of the following marked categories:
#	Florida Statute 119.07 (3) (ee), which states: Building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by an agency as defined in s. 119.011 are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this act. Information made exempt by this paragraph may be disclosed to another governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties and responsibilities; to a licensed architect, engineer, or contractor who is performing work on or related to the building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by an agency; or upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction. The entities or persons receiving such information shall maintain the exempt status of the information.
	Other, explain

Materials indicated have been removed from the paper file and are either housed in a secure location or available to authorized persons in the EDMS. If you need these materials, please see Site File staff.





Woman's Club of Tallahassee Tallahassee, Florida TALLAHASSEE QUADRANGLE FLORIDA-LEON CO. 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

